



# Vanier Catholic Secondary

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www.vcss.ca

Ryan Sikkes, Principal Jeanette Gallant, Vice-Principal

May 2015

## Principal's Message

May is a happy month as we are nearing the end of this academic year and spring has surely sprung! In the Roman Catholic tradition, May is also known as the Marian month as it is our tradition to celebrate Mary, the mother of Jesus. This is also the reason we celebrate Mother's Day in May!

It is also a happy month because we celebrate the graduation class of 2015. We took time with the Grade 12s this month to reflect on the journey they have made—many together since kindergarten—and look forward to their next steps. It is always a gratifying experience to watch our graduating students name people to whom they are thankful for supporting their educational careers to date.

One of the most satisfying parts of teaching is seeing young people going forth into the world to make it a better place. We release students into the world not with just academic skills, but a working understanding of how to inform their consciences. We believe the Holy Spirit helps guide us as we consider our intellect, our feelings, our faith and faith traditions before making decisions. Indeed, a good Catholic education does not tell students what to think but rather helps them learn how to think and act according to their core values and beliefs.

It is bittersweet saying goodbye to our graduates. The sadness is somewhat offset by our eager anticipation of the arrival of our incoming Grade 8 class. We have already started transition activities with them and will host them in the school for a retreat on June 3.

I wish all our students a productive month as we race towards the end of this school year!

Sincerely,  
Ryan Sikkes, Principal



## Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior;  
Because He has regarded the lowliness of His  
handmaid;  
for behold, henceforth all generations shall call  
me blessed;  
Because He who is mighty has done great things  
for me,  
and Holy is His Name;  
And His mercy is from generation to generation  
on those who fear Him.  
He has shown might with His arm,  
He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their  
heart.  
He has put down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has exalted the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has given help to Israel, His servant, mindful of  
His mercy -  
Even as He spoke to our father—to Abraham and  
to his posterity forever. **Amen**

## Dates to note for Term IV (April-June)

The official 2015-2016 School Calendar can be accessed online at the Yukon Education



Friday, May 15—Ridge Run  
 Monday, May 18—Victoria Day—NO SCHOOL!  
 Wednesday, May 20—Grade 10 retreat  
 Friday/Saturday, May 21-22—Grad weekend  
 Monday, June 1—Philippines Independence Day  
 Wednesday, June 3—Grade 7 retreat at Vanier  
 Thursday, June 4—Awards 7pm  
 Tuesday, June 9—Last day of classes & Awards 2  
 Monday, June 15—Last day of school!!!

### Exams:

**June 10-15—School based exams**

**June 18-24—BC Provincial exams**

Monday, August 31—Gr. 8 Orientation Day

Tuesday, September 1—First Day of School

**NOTE: The 2015-2016 School Calendar is available at [education.gov.yk.ca](http://education.gov.yk.ca)**

*For the latest news, school information and homework assignments, visit our informative school website:*

**[www.vcss.ca](http://www.vcss.ca)**



## School Council Corner

The next regular council meetings will be June 2 at 7:00pm in the VCSS Library.

The members of our current council are:

Edith Elder; Chair

Michael Lauer, Vice-Chair

Dianne Tait

Maureen Long

Shanon Cooper

For more information on Vanier's School Council, including current contact information, visit [www.vcss.ca](http://www.vcss.ca) and click on the "School Council" tab.

## School Growth Plan Update

***Our Inquiry:*** How will an all-school focus on improved writing instruction influence student performance?



### ***What are we learning?***

The Spring SWWs are complete. We've noticed a pattern of improvement between the fall and spring results. Our students are developing as writers!

### ***How's it going?***

As the field of education is quite complex, it is difficult to determine how changes in instruction / focus have influenced our SWW results. We trust that the trend of improvement is true and that our students and teachers have worked hard to make a positive difference in their learning.

### ***What's next?***

The School Growth Plan Committee continues to meet to discuss our focus for the 2015-16 school year. The committee has chosen to maintain our current goal / inquiry. We will now consider how our school growth plan can be adjusted to meet the needs of our students based on the evidence of learning that we've gathered and observed this year.

## Summer School 2015

During July 2015, the Department of Education will be offering summer school courses for secondary students who have not successfully passed a course and who wish to strengthen their skills in one of these core academic subjects:

English 8  
 English 9  
 English 10  
 English 11  
 Mathematics 8  
 Mathematics 9  
 Foundations of Math and Pre-calculus 10  
 Apprenticeship and Workplace Mathematics 10  
 Foundations of Math 11  
 Pre-Calculus 11  
 Apprenticeship and Workplace Mathematics 11  
 Pre-Calculus 12



Courses will be offered based on a minimum of 6 students per class. Class sizes will be limited in order to provide a high degree of individual instruction. Fees for the above courses will be \$180.00. Students unable to pay Summer School enrolment fees, please contact Lynn Williams at 667-5127 to make other arrangements.

Students of Math and English 10 are required to write (or have written) the respective BC Provincial Exam. If students have already written the exam, they are not required to rewrite. However, if they wish to re-write, they may do so at one of the scheduled sittings at their school next year.

The teacher will have information regarding these exams.

Exam dates: November 2015

January 2016

April 2016

May 2016

**Date: July 2 - July 31, 2015**

**Time: 9:00am -12:00pm**

**Location: FH Collins Secondary**

**School Course Fees: \$180**

**Registration Deadline: Friday, June 19, 2015**

## EXAM PREPARATION

### What is the best way to prepare for government exams?

- Do practice exams - go to <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/search/> and follow the prompts to find the exam you will be taking.
- Now read and do all the questions without looking at the answer key.
- Write down your answers on paper or print them, as well as the time you start and stop.
- Determine how long the practice exam took.
- Use the answer key and go over the errors so that you don't do them again.
- Use the answer key and find out what type of questions you are having difficulty with or what topics in the test are you experiencing difficulty with?

**Now you know what topics you need to concentrate on and what type of questions you should review material for!**

## Learning Commons News

### Cool Tools 2 Use

Welcome to a new Commons feature *Cool Tools 2 Use* in which we highlight a Web 2.0 tool that you can use for school projects.

### Emaze

If you are you sick of boring presentations, take a look at **Emaze** ([www.emaze.com](http://www.emaze.com)). This free online presentation software has a number of templates with 3D and animation options to create interesting and memorable presentations to impress your teachers and friends. See Ms. Clarke for help on how to use Emaze.

## From the Office of Religious Education

May has been busy with retreats!

The grade 8s spent a lovely day at Mount Mac learning about the importance of living in community. The grade 9s retreated from school to talk about the influences of people and things in their lives and reflected on how to navigate a world with so many contradicting directions and messages. Our grads met last Thursday for their final retreat and used their time to express hopes and dreams as well as their gratitude for each other and their school community. The grade 10 retreat is scheduled for Wednesday May 20th and will involve students currently taking Religion 10 visiting various service/outreach organizations in downtown Whitehorse.

Our incoming grade 7s will be at Vanier for a retreat on Wednesday, June 3rd.

### Goodreads

Looking for a new favourite book? You do not need to look any further than the Vanier



Learning Commons to start on your fantastic, thrilling, challenging, satisfying adventure!

If you are looking for a way to keep virtual track of which books you have read and those you would like to read, check out GoodReads at

[www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com). Users can add books to their personal bookshelves, rate and review books, participate in discussion boards and groups on a variety of topics, and get suggestions for future reading choices. If a book that you hear about isn't part of our Vanier collection, make a purchase request and you can be the first to read it.

### Spring cleaning

Please take a look under your bed, in the back of your closet or on your living room bookshelves and please return any Vanier books that you find there....no questions asked!



*What's cooking in the cafeteria these days?*

Check out [vcss.ca](http://vcss.ca) for this, news and school information!

\$22-valued punch cards can be purchased for only \$20!!

**Debit/Credit now accepted**

# Social Justice Club News

## Yukon Youth for Social Justice Conference 2015

The Yukon held its 2<sup>nd</sup> *Step Up Speak Out Yukon Youth for Social Justice Conference* on April 30th at the Yukon

College. Over 150 students and staff from 8 elementary and secondary schools, including 20 from Vanier, attended the event.

Participants started the conference with a fantastic keynote address from Paralympian and activist Stephanie Dixon and followed up with a choice of 18 different social justice-related workshops including Run for Life Kenya, Whitehorse Food Bank, Outreach Van, Doctors Without Borders and Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women. Vanier is especially proud that four of our senior students were presenters at the



Teachers Meera Sarin and Sylvie Hamel show off conference t-shirt fashion!

conference. Congratulations and thank you to Brandon Crawford, Kathryn Fortune and Sansan Tan who presented on Fair Trade and Emily Ross who shared her journey of songs and social justice.

Throughout the day, students were challenged to consider different local and global issues and were asked a simple question: #SONOWWHAT? This call to action was answered by many and since then, we are aware of a number of students volunteering at the Food Bank or donating their time and resources to various

causes. Here at Vanier, students followed up the conference with an ice cream fundraiser for Hands of Hope, a local organization that builds libraries and classrooms in Nepal and India and on May 11th, the SJ Club celebrated Fair Trade Day with a sports event using social conscience sporting equipment and distribution of Fair Trade chocolate.

Hope to see you all at the conference in 2016!

**All Vanier students can receive free tutoring** for assistance in course work, assignments, organizational skills or test preparation. Students will be matched one on one. To receive tutoring the student needs to *fill in an application* in the Skills Room(Room 3).

**Students in Grade 10, 11 or 12 can apply to be a tutor.**

Tutors can earn community service hours or an hourly wage. Potential tutors need to *come in person* to see Ms. Bergsma and *fill in an application*.





## Vanier Catholic Secondary School Based Exam Schedule – June 10-15, 2015

If any conflicts exist, please see Ms. Gallant. The schedule is subject to change.

	Wednesday, June 10	Thursday, June 11	Friday, June 12	Monday, June 15
<b>9:00 – 12:00 In Classrooms</b>	Science 8	Humanities 8	Math 8	<b>Catch-Up Day</b>
<b>9:00 – 11:00 In Gym</b>	Science 9 English 11 Bio 12	Humanities 9 French 10 Physics 11 Physics 12	Math 9 Chemistry 11 Family Studies 12	
<b>1:00 – 3:00 In Classrooms</b>	French 8	French 9		
<b>1:00 – 3:00 In Gym</b>	Religion 10 French 11 PreCalc 11 Math Found 12 Calculus 12	Religion 11 Psychology 12 French 12	Bio 11 Chemistry 12	

In-Class Exams or Final Projects:      Planning 10              Info-Tech 10-12              Socials 10              Law 12  
    Spanish 11                      AWM 11                      Foods 11                      Art 10

## BC Provincial Exam Schedule – June 18-24, 2015

TIME	EXAM	LOCATION
<b>Thursday, June 18: 9:00-12:00</b>	Apprenticeship and Workplace Math 10 – electronic Foundations of Math and Precalculus 10 – electronic*	Library Lab Photo Lab
<b>Friday, June 19: 9:00 – 12:00</b>	Science 10 - electronic and paper	Library Lab
<b>Friday, June 19: 1:00 – 4:00</b>	English 12 - electronic and paper	Photo Lab
<b>Monday, June 22: 9:00 – 12:00</b>	Communications 12 - electronic and paper	Library Lab
<b>Tuesday, June 23: 9:00 – 12:00</b>	Foundations of Math and Precalculus 10 – paper*	Rm 18
<b>Wednesday, June 24: 9:00– 12:00</b>	English 10    - electronic and paper	Library Lab
<b>Wednesday, June 24: 1:00 – 4:00</b>	Socials 11    - electronic	Photo Lab

\* Students have the option of taking Foundations of Math and Precalculus 10 on paper or electronic – they do not need to be present for both sessions.